

December 3, 2012

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the 1909 Randolph County Historic Courthouse Meeting Room, 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC. Commissioners Holmes, Frye, Haywood, Kemp and Lanier were present. Dr. Bob Shackelford, RCC President, gave the invocation and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administration of Oaths of Office

The Honorable Judge Bradford Vance Long administered oaths of office to Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor Shane Whitaker, and Commissioners Phil Kemp and Arnold Lanier.

County Employee Service Awards Presentation

Chairman Harold Holmes and County Manager Richard Wells, assisted by Human Resources Director Stacy Griffin, presented County employee service award certificates and a piece of pottery to the following honorees: 15 years of service: Terri A. Peele, *Emergency Services* (not present); Steven D. Staley, *Emergency Services*; Bradford R. Ellis, *Health*; Kimberly D. Lemmons, *Information Technology*; Aimee C. Scotton, *Legal*; Robert M. Macon, *Public Buildings*; Avery B. Arrington, *Sheriff*; Mickey W. Beal, *Sheriff*; Patricia L. Carawan, *Sheriff*; Jeffrey W. Cook, *Sheriff* (not present); Roger C. Hunt, *Sheriff*; Barbara L. Lowrance, *Sheriff* (not present); David M. Joyce, *Sheriff*; Bernie E. Maness, Jr., *Sheriff*; Thomas L. McIver, *Sheriff*; Bernadette M. Campbell, *Social Services* (not present); Darlene Luther, *Social Services* (not present); Lisa C. Stern, *Social Services* (not present); Kristy R. Thompson, *Social Services*. 20 years of service: Phillip D. Kemp, *County Commissioner*; Wendell N. Whatley, *Emergency Services*; Anna M. Brower, *Health* (not present); Gina C. Hussey, *Health* (not present); Harvey W. Jones, *Health*; Timothy V. Mangum, *Planning & Zoning* (not present); Michael D. Blackwell, *Sheriff*; Jerry D. Brower, *Sheriff*; Phyllis I. Calloway, *Sheriff*; Christopher E. Maness, *Sheriff*; Keith A. Owenby, *Sheriff*; Joann D. Sapp, *Sheriff*; Edith D. Baldwin, *Social Services*; Cynthia P. Cody, *Social Services*; Ann H. Councilman, *Social Services*; Betty D. Skipper, *Social Services* (not present); Edith C. Stallings, *Social Services* (not present); Sharon K. York, *Social Services*; Debra T. Brady, *Tax* (not present); Terry M. VanVliet, *Veterans Services*. 25 years of service: Ross Holt, *Library*; Susan D. Hayes, *Health*; Jennifer M. Garner, *Planning & Zoning* (not present); Catha J. Wright, *Sheriff*; Sue N. King, *Social Services*. 30 years of service: Darrell Frye, *County Commissioner*; Becky D. Perry, *Register of Deeds*; Debra P. Hill, *Tax*.

Public Comment Period

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-52.1, Chairman Holmes opened the floor for public comment.

Virginia York Halverson, 1908 Leonard York Dr., Randleman, referenced the petitions opposing a regional landfill that she had presented to the Board in October, and she presented a few more to the Board at this meeting. She said that she was present to provide some history about the Randolph County Cedar Falls Community Association and the Historical Society. Ms. Halverson said that the 1848 Cedar Falls Chapel is virtually completed. This 20-year project will be dedicated in the spring. Ms. Halverson also announced that the publication *Water Under The Bridge, Vol. III.* by Henry Bowers, local artist and historian, has won the Willie Parker Peace Award for the third time. Ms. Halverson said that she is proud to be a Randolph County citizen and a North Carolinian.

Melissa Brown from My Circle Of Friends Enrichment Center said that she wished to comment on some things from last month. Last Friday, Nov. 30, marked the last day of after school daycare for many children in Randolph County. She said the day was met with frustration, disappointment, tears and fear of the unknown. Directors came to the Commissioners seeking help to find a resolution to the funding crisis. As representatives of the citizens of Randolph County, she said they look to the Commissioners for help, as they are advocates for needs of citizens. They also looked at the state level for help. It seemed that no one would take a stand with them for children. At the last count, 535 vouchers were terminated on Nov. 30. She said she was not here to point fingers concerning the spending patterns of over- and under-spending over the last four years. She hopes someone will oversee the budget more closely so that this doesn't ever happen again. She is still hoping that the children will be able to return to their centers. She said she spoke with Richard Park today, and for first time, she feels that finally someone is willing to work with the directors, families and children affected by the cuts. Ms. Brown said that the directors offered suggestions to the Board at the last meeting and to DSS prior to the cuts. After an extended conversation with Richard Park, they are going to work together to reduce spending, based on the lowering of school-age tuition rates throughout the county. The goal is to reinstate as many vouchers starting with children ages 5, 6 & 7 and to do as many as possible. She was told by Mr. Park that as a government official, he was not able to call individual centers to determine the reductions they were willing to take. This was the first day that the directors were told that they had to present it in that form. She said that many centers are closing; several had to close rooms, restructure their buildings, or restructure their staff, but today there are some centers that have to start over once the cut is made. But with the new plan, some centers are cutting tuition in half and some will cut \$10, \$15, \$20. The directors are coming together to collect the money that each center is willing to cut and will report back to Richard Park, who will take that information and determine the number of children that can be reinstated. She said there was a reduction last month of \$8,000 that took place already without any cuts being made. Looking back at the numbers, in July, 746 children were served. In August, 751. In September, 604, and in October, 606, so there are 71 or so remaining children that are left on the voucher school age program. She said they were considering putting those dollars together to determine an average cost per child that is given by a state model, which is \$261 for the month of October. She said they are considering \$300 and calculated that with the amount of money that could be saved per center per month per child reinstatement could occur as soon as January or end of February. She said she is not sure if Richard Park has spoken with the powers that be yet. But, the goal is to work together. She thinks \$150,000, and possibly more, can be saved. Also, some different money has been given to them. She told Mr. Park that another \$25,000 is being donated to DSS or reallocated to DSS from another fund in order to provide care for 0-5 year-olds. And then, that \$25,000 could be reallocated and reverted back to the school-age fund as well. She said that it was disheartening to hear children's views of what was happening to them when they think they are being kicked out. The directors want to make sure that this doesn't happen again. The budget needs to be sustained.

Bonnie Renfro, Randolph County Economic Development Corporation President, read the following resolution of support for the proposed regional landfill, which was adopted by the RCEDC Board of Directors:

Resolution Of Support For Regional Landfill

Whereas, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners is considering opening a new regional solid waste facility in Randolph County; and

Whereas, a regional landfill would generate a new revenue source for the County by reusing an underutilized asset; and

Whereas, revenues generated by a regional landfill reduce the pressure on our property tax rate by expanding the revenue base available to fund local public services; and

Whereas, opening a new Subtitle D landfill in our own county would eliminate the need to transport our solid waste to an outside facility, thereby providing a substantial savings to our residents and businesses for their own solid waste disposal needs; and

Whereas, a regional facility would create permanent jobs, some of which will be County positions and others that would be hired by a private contractor operating the facility; and

Whereas, a significant portion of the income from the new jobs can be expected to be spent in the local community; and

Whereas, if such a facility is built in Randolph County, there are many economic advantages for prospective and existing businesses that include:

- the landfill operator spending millions of dollars per year on goods and services, with a significant portion of this business going to local vendors, which may result in additional indirect jobs;
- future waste to energy capability, resulting in a gas-to-energy plant, which may attract other businesses to the area (e.g., industrial park near the landfill), with a potential energy source that would continue even after landfill closure, providing a "green energy" alternative;
- since solid waste disposal can be a huge part of manufacturing operation costs and necessary infrastructure, having a guaranteed local disposal option creates a competitive advantage for manufacturing companies and businesses;
- potential post closure public amenity possibilities, such as greenways, recreational sites, providing an enticement for prospective businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Randolph County Economic Development Board of Directors** hereby supports the establishment of a regional solid waste facility in Randolph County.

Adopted this 25th day of October in Liberty, North Carolina. FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jon Nance, New Hope Church Rd., Asheboro, suggested a public referendum on landfill debt. He said that if there is going to be money borrowed for the landfill, the public should have the opportunity to vote on it. Also, it bothers him that it's proposed to be part County government and part private company. He feels that partnership seems unfair to other local businesses that don't get the same benefits. He said that government is not a business. It's not meant to constantly have to generate higher profit margins in order to grow and expand. There must be a base somewhere. You have to cut spending and not spend on things you don't need, so there's not a constant search for new revenue. The landfill should be put to a vote for all of Randolph County to decide because it affects all of us.

Janet Pate, Sophia, said that she has not been able to speak at the last two meetings because she works in Mt. Airy now due to the economy and can't get here by 6 pm. In September, she told the Board about the treatment she received at the Guil-Rand Fire Department's annual meeting, and followed up with an email with a summary of what had happened and asked who would be getting back with her regarding her concerns. She hasn't received anything back yet. She said that as a taxpayer in Randolph County and a taxpayer in the Guil-Rand Fire District, of which she is a member, she does have a right to ask questions about money being spent. She said she was treated rudely, and she hasn't had a resolution so far. She asked if someone would be getting back with her.

Vice Chair Frye said that he followed up extensively on the issue and got quite a different description of what happened that night. He said the fire department has its own board. They are not responsible to the County. We don't tell them how to run their business. He followed up more than once, and he talked to several people who were in attendance that night.

Ms. Pate said, "So people in attendance that night didn't verify that Walter Stanley yelled at me and told me that I could not ask questions at that meeting? Because I have someone here that can verify this."

Vice Chair Frye said that was not the description that he got.

Ms. Pate asked if, when she gets this kind of treatment, she's supposed to just sit back and not say anything.

Vice Chair Frye said that he's not telling her that at all.

Ms. Pate asked if anyone from the County overlooks the Guil-Rand fire district's budget.

Vice Chair Frye said that they have their own board. The County contracts with them for services that they provide. We contract with their board and fire department for fire service.

Commissioner Haywood said that the County does request and receive audited financial statements from the fire departments.

Vice Chair Frye also mentioned that Guil-Rand was the first fire department to provide their audited financial statements to the County.

Commissioner Kemp responded to Mr. Nance's comments earlier, by saying that if the County were to actually build a regional landfill, there would be no money borrowed by the County for this purpose. Money would be paid to the County from a contractor to get the franchise to operate it.

Jimmy Pate, Sophia, said he was in attendance at the Guil-Rand Fire Department meeting and he's just here to back up Janet's story. She was spoken to rather rudely. She wanted to ask questions. They asked for questions. When she started asking questions, it was plainly stated that that was not the time or place to ask questions. He doesn't understand. If they're getting our tax money, we should have the right to ask questions. If not there, where can we ask them? She was told directly not to ask questions there, to direct her questions to Walter Stanley. But, Walter Stanley is not the fire chief and not the fire department. He's a taxpayer just like they are. Why should we have to speak with him to find out how our money is being spent within the fire department? Mr. Stanley is a board member of the Guil-Rand fire district, representing the Sophia district. Mr. Pate said someone in the County should be stepping up and making sure they are spending the money wisely. He doesn't understand where the oversight is on them.

Vice Chair Frye said they have a board and they give us audited financial statements.

Mr. Pate asked who they should ask questions to if the fire department doesn't answer them.

Commissioner Kemp said that if they have a problem with Mr. Stanley, when the fire department has its next election, he or Janet could present him or herself as a candidate and go out and ask people to vote for them in order to get on that board and get more in the know.

Mr. Pate said that it is his understanding of the by-laws, that one has to apply and they have to accept your nomination. They kind of tie your hands.

Commissioner Kemp said that he's never seen by-laws structured like that.

Mr. Pate said that those are the new by-laws.

Commissioner Haywood said that this is a forum and we may not be able to provide all the answers but we do welcome the questions, and any citizen is welcome to come every meeting and speak.

Mr. Pate said that this is a learning process for him. He's only been here a few times and he's learning all the time. We just had an election and 70% of Randolph County voters who took the time to vote felt like our country as a whole was heading in the wrong direction and overspending money we don't have. He said they just want to be concerned citizens to make sure our money is being spent as wisely as possible.

Commissioner Haywood said that we audit these departments and if we see discrepancies, we ask for answers.

Vice Chair Frye said that the fire chief and the board members said they would be willing to come here and address this board and answer questions as a result of this issue anytime we want them to appear.

Commissioner Kemp said that he thought that would be a good idea. That would clear up some confusion.

Vice Chair Frye responded to Melissa Brown's earlier comments: He talked with her on the phone and others at DSS and he agrees that there is a crisis and that kids have been inconvenienced. Other than the possibility of our board funding money to alleviate the problem, we weren't a part of any of those decisions or discussions. He was glad to hear that some progress is being made. There still may be a shortage of funds and this has been a learning process.

Reorganization of the Board

On motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to elect Harold Holmes as Chairman.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to elect Darrell Frye as Vice-Chair.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following appointments: County Attorney, Ben Morgan; Associate County Attorney, Aimee Scotton; Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Ivey; Deputy Clerk to the Board, Amanda Varner; Representative to the Board of Health, Stan Haywood; Representative to the Social Services Board, Arnold Lanier; Representative to the Sandhills Consolidated Mental Health Board, Harold Holmes; Representative to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Phil Kemp; Representative to the High Point Transportation Advisory Board, Darrell Frye; Alternate Representative to the High Point Transportation Advisory Board, Stan Haywood; PTRG Delegate, Darrell Frye; Piedmont Triad Partnership, Phil Kemp; Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, Darrell Frye; Regional Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee, Stan Haywood; Tourism Development Authority Liaison, Phil Kemp.

Rezoning Public Hearing

At 7:00 p.m., the Board adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing to consider a rezoning request. Hal Johnson, Planning Director, presented the following request:

1. **GLADON FOREST EQUITY, LLC**, Trinity, North Carolina, is requesting that 1.50 acres (out of 10.39 acres) located at 9118 Hillsville Road, Trinity Township, be rezoned from RA to HC-CD. Tax ID# 7726235258. Primary Growth Area. The proposed Conditional District Zoning would specially allow a retail sales (Dollar General Store) store in a proposed 130' x 70' building as per site plan. Property Owner - Jeffrey Rains. The Planning Board reviewed this request at public meeting on November 13, 2012, and unanimously recommended that this request be approved. *The Planning Board found the following policies within the 2009 Growth Management Plan that support determination of consistency with the adopted plan with this recommendation:*
Policy 4.1 Provide for sites in Randolph County jurisdiction where rural commercial activity can locate; with the goal of increasing economic activity; job creation, and the provision of services to the rural community.
Policy 4.3 Individual Rural Business or Highway Commercial rezoning decisions will depend upon the scale of the proposed development as it relates to the specific site and location weighed against the impacts to adjoining rural land uses.
Policy 4.6 Compatible land uses such as rural neighborhood retail and service establishments located close to general residential areas should be considered during the rezoning process with the general goal of reducing automobile travel distances and promoting better livability in the community.

George Venters, Gladon Forest Equity, 709 Yarmouth Rd., Raleigh, NC, said that the property was chosen for this project by Dollar General Corporate. They have looked at all of Randolph County and like the growth prospects of this area. Dollar General (DG) is one of the nation's leading discounters and created over 6,000 jobs in 2012. DG provides conveniently sized stores in convenient locations. Each store will bring approximately 10,000 consumer staple items to the area. Each store makes a commitment to the community that they will generate approximately \$100,000 in additional tax revenue for the community. More importantly, each store will generate approximately 10-15 new and part-time jobs. The goal of these projects is to conveniently serve the local community to provide low price options. He said that before the Planning Board meeting, he mailed 30+ letters to homeowners within a 1000-ft radius of the property. He received one phone call from a homeowner who had a couple of general questions. He has not heard any opposition so far.

Janet Pate said that she lives in the area and is concerned due to current traffic problems on this road. Is there anything going to be done about a turning lane for this business?

Mr. Venters said that each project is taken to the NCDOT district office. DOT scrutinizes every plan based on traffic volume. It will go through a whole litany of tests. It very well may require a turning lane.

Vice Chair Frye said that it is up to the developer and NCDOT to work out any of these issues, not the County.

Joseph & Rhonda Walton, 4142 Valley Ridge Dr. Ext., Trinity, said that they are neighbors of the property to be developed. They are not necessarily against this project, but have concerns on how it might affect property values and increase crime, and they also wonder about the storm run-off and sewage. They received a letter from the company, after which, Mr. Walton asked for a site map. He has not been provided with one. He asked how much acreage that adjoins his property will be affected. Will trees be cut down? Will lights be installed? They have concerns with loss of privacy and security and noise factors. Also, traffic is an issue now and left-hand turns could be a major issue. Would there be a buffer fence installed? They are also concerned about parking lots with folks with booming radios. Ms. Walton said she has lived in this neighborhood for 25 years and would hate to have to sell in order to maintain peace and privacy.

Hal Johnson said that there will be a fence installed between the business and the adjoining property, which is standard procedure.

Mr. Venters said that there will be a six-ft. privacy fence around three sides. The existing pine trees will not be cut between the business and the community center.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of Gladon Forest Equity, LLC as determined consistent with the standards and policies contained within the Growth Management Plan outlined in the recommendations provided by the County Planning Board.

2. **JAMES MURRAY**, Randleman, North Carolina, is requesting that .92 acres located at 5896 US Hwy 311, New Market Township, be rezoned from OI-CU to RR. Randleman Lake Watershed. Tax ID# 7745378328. Primary Growth Area. It is the desire of the applicant to use the property for residential purposes. The Planning Board reviewed this request at public meeting on November 13, 2012, and unanimously recommended that this request be approved. *The Planning Board found the following policies within the 2009 Growth Management Plan that support determination of consistency with the adopted plan with this recommendation:*
Board of Commissioner Resolution Adopting the Growth Management Plan, Policy #3. Ensure the opportunity for landowners to achieve the highest and best uses of their land that are consistent with growth management policies in order to protect the economic viability of the County's citizens and tax base.
Board of Commissioner Resolution Adopting the Growth Management Plan, Policy #4. Ensure the opportunity for landowners to achieve the highest and best uses of their land that are consistent with growth management policies in order to protect the economic viability of the County's citizens and tax base.

James Murray, 201 Hub Morris Rd., Randleman, spoke in favor of his request.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of James Murray as determined consistent with the standards and policies contained within the Growth Management Plan outlined in the recommendations provided by the County Planning Board.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, and as follows:

- *approve minutes of regular meeting & closed session of 11/5/12;*
- *approve surety bonds for elected and appointed officials: Finance Officer Will Massie (\$500,000); Deputy Finance Officer Suzanne Dale (\$500,000); Tax Collector Debra Hill (\$300,000); Deputy Tax Collectors: Sallie Cheek (\$200,000), Revonda Cox (\$200,000); Deputy Finance Officers for Jail Commissary: Phyllis Calloway (\$10,000), Judy Brown (\$50,000), JoAnn Sapp (\$10,000); Sheriff Maynard Reid (\$25,000), Register of Deeds Krista Lowe (\$50,000);*
- *designate Board of Commissioners Chair (Chief Elected Official) to the Regional Partnership Local Workforce Development Area Consortium Chief Elected Official Board;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #13 for DSS (\$78,562 Carryover of Adoption Enhancement & Adoption Fees), as follows:*

2012-2013 Budget Ordinance		
General Fund—Budget Amendment #13		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Appropriated Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$78,562</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Social Services</i>	<i>\$78,562</i>	

- *appoint Anne Hockett to the Workforce Development Board to fill the unexpired term of Robert Leslie, who is no longer eligible to serve;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #14 for Health Dept. (\$11,218 Women's Health, TANF Grant; \$4,000 Additional Funding from Div. of Public Health/Environmental Health; \$2,208 Women's & Children's Health/Nutrition Grant: total \$17,426), as follows:*

2012-2013 Budget Ordinance		
General Fund—Budget Amendment #14		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	<i>\$17,426</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Public Health</i>	<i>\$17,426</i>	

- *approve Resolution Supporting Randolph County "Welcome To" Sign On US Highway 220 I-73/74 Northbound, as follows:*

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RANDOLPH COUNTY "WELCOME TO" SIGN ON US HIGHWAY 220 I-73/74 NB

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has investigated a request from Randolph County to erect a welcome sign on the right of way of US 220 I-73/74 NB at or near the Randolph/Montgomery county line; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT has granted the use of the existing sign supports for the purpose of erecting a Randolph County “Welcome To” sign; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT has agreed to fabricate, deliver and install the Randolph County “Welcome To” sign; and

WHEREAS, Randolph County agrees to pay NCDOT for the cost of the fabrication, delivery and installation of the Randolph County “Welcome To” sign; and

WHEREAS, Randolph County agrees to take responsibility for the maintenance and/or replacement of the Randolph County “Welcome To” sign; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, that the County agrees to reimburse the NCDOT for the fabrication, delivery, installation, and maintenance of, the aforementioned “Welcome To” sign.

- *amend 2013 Holiday Schedule to reflect that the Randolph County Solid Waste Facility will be closed on New Year’s Day, as follows:*

Holiday	County*	Solid Waste Facility**	Library
New Year’s Day	Observance 1/1 (Tue.)	Observance 1/1 (Tue.) closed	Observance 1/1 (Tue.)
M. L. King Jr.’s B-day	1/21 (Mon.)	1/21 (Mon.) open	1/21 (Mon.)
Easter / Good Friday	3/29 (Fri.)	3/29 (Fri.) open 3/30 (Sat.) closed	3/29 & 3/30 (Fri. & Sat.)
Memorial Day	5/27 (Mon.)	5/27 (Mon.) closed	5/27 (Mon.)
Independence Day	7/4 (Thur.)	7/4 (Thur.) closed	7/4 (Thur.)
Labor Day	9/2 (Mon.)	9/2 (Mon.) closed	9/2 (Mon.)
Fall Festival (Asheboro Library Only)			10/5 (Sat.)
Veterans’ Day	11/11 (Mon.)	11/11 (Mon.) open	11/11 (Mon.)
Seagrove Pottery Festival (Seagrove Library Only)			11/17 (Sat.)
Thanksgiving	11/28 & 29 (Thur. & Fri.)	11/28 (Thur.) closed, 11/29 (Fri.) open , 11/30 (Sat.) open	11/28, 29 & 30 (Thur., Fri. & Sat.)
Christmas	12/24 -12/26 (Tue., Wed. & Thur.)	12/24 (Tue.) closed, 12/25 (Wed.) closed, 12/26 open	12/24, 12/25 & 26 (Tue., Wed. & Thur)

- *reappoint Cathy Waddell to the Randolph County Board of Health;*
- *appoint Benjamin Tuggle to the Asheboro Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Chris Corsbie, who has resigned;*
- *reappoint Joanne Peterson to the Randolph County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee.*

Additions to Agenda:

Chairman Holmes announced that the following items would be added to the New Business Agenda:

J. Request for Approval to Allow PTRC to Apply for Single Family Rehabilitation Funding on Behalf of the County—*Brian Heilig*

K. Request for Adoption of Resolution to Delay General Reappraisal for One Year—*Debra Hill*

Presentation from Area Agency On Aging Regarding New County Data Package

Candie Rudzinski, Executive Director of the Randolph County Senior Adults Association, introduced Joe Dzugan, Piedmont Triad Regional Council Aging Systems Coordinator, who presented a data report entitled “Randolph County – An Overview of the Aging Population & Individuals with Disabilities.” It was an in-depth statistical look at Randolph County’s older adults, grandparents raising grandchildren, and individuals with disabilities. All of the data in the report was provided by the US Census Bureau, the American Community Survey, the North Carolina Office of Budget and Management, and the North Carolina State Demographer. Statistics were compiled by the PTRC Regional Data Center. The main purpose of this presentation was to inform the citizens concerning aging needs in Randolph County. A link to this information will be provided on the County’s website.

Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund Merit Expenditures

Will Massie stated that County departments were notified in October that the merit program that had been suspended in 2008, was reactivated, allowing us to reward outstanding employee performance. However, instead of salary adjustments, for this year, merit pay was provided as a one-time bonus. A budget amendment is necessary to reallocate the budgeted funds from the Administration Department to the respective departments.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #15 for merit pay, as follows:

2012-2013 Budget Ordinance		
General Fund—Budget Amendment #15		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Administration</i>		<i>\$111,801</i>
<i>Information Technology</i>	<i>\$3,103</i>	
<i>Tax</i>	<i>\$5,412</i>	
<i>Elections</i>	<i>\$489</i>	
<i>Register of Deeds</i>	<i>\$1,124</i>	
<i>Public Buildings</i>	<i>\$1,996</i>	
<i>Sheriff</i>	<i>\$39,174</i>	
<i>Emergency Services</i>	<i>\$12,821</i>	
<i>Building Inspections</i>	<i>\$1,677</i>	
<i>Day Reporting Center</i>	<i>\$1,026</i>	
<i>Planning & Zoning</i>	<i>\$1,892</i>	
<i>Cooperative Extension</i>	<i>\$265</i>	
<i>Soil & Water</i>	<i>\$391</i>	
<i>Public Works</i>	<i>\$390</i>	
<i>Public Health</i>	<i>\$12,125</i>	
<i>Social Services</i>	<i>\$23,520</i>	
<i>Veteran Services</i>	<i>\$86</i>	
<i>Child Support Enforcement</i>	<i>\$1,496</i>	
<i>Public Library</i>	<i>\$4,814</i>	

Public Hearing on Closing of Undeveloped Portions of Willow Lake Rd. & Approval of Order

Associate County Attorney Aimee Scotton said that she had received a request that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners act to permanently close two undeveloped sections of Willow Lake Road in the Franklinville Township. Neither of these sections have ever been built; they only exist on paper. The procedure for closing a public road or easement is governed by North Carolina General Statute §153A-241. The first step requires that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution declaring its intent to close the road and calling for a public hearing on the question. This resolution was adopted at the November meeting. In accordance with the statute, notice of the hearing was published once a week for three successive weeks. The statute further requires that a copy of the resolution must be sent by certified mail to each owner of property adjoining the road, as shown by the county tax records, who did not join in the request to have the road closed; this has been done. Furthermore, a notice of the closing and the public hearing was posted in at least two places along the section to be closed as prescribed by statute. It is now time for the public hearing. After all interested persons are allowed to voice their views, if the Board of Commissioners is satisfied that closing these sections of Willow Lake Road will not be detrimental to public interest and will not deprive any individual of access to his property, the Board may adopt the attached order closing the sections. A certified copy of the order shall then be filed with the Register of Deeds office.

At 7:35 pm, the Chairman opened the duly advertised public hearing. No one spoke, and the public hearing was closed.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to adopt an order to close portions of Willow Lake Road, as follows:

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners has received a request from Gary David Robbins to permanently close two undeveloped sections of Willow Lake Road in the Franklinville Township:

From where it connects with Orlando Drive (S.R. #2263) approximately 359.26 feet north, and;

From where it physically dead ends approximately 368.84 feet south to where it connects on paper with Ernest Road (S.R. #2227).

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2012, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution declaring its intent to close said street or easement and set a public hearing on the issue for December 3, 2012, all in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §153A-241; and

WHEREAS, notices of the closing and public hearing were mailed to all adjoining property owners who did not join in the request for closure and were prominently posted in two places along the road; and

WHEREAS, notice of the public hearing set by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners was published once a week for three successive weeks before the hearing (on November 9, 16, and 23); and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners has determined through the public hearing that the closing of the aforesaid portions of Willow Lake Road is not contrary to the public interest and that no individual owning property in the vicinities of said road would be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners that the above-referenced portions of Willow Lake Road be permanently closed and that all right, title, and interest in its respective right-of-way is vested in those persons owning lots or parcels of land adjacent to the road or easement.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy of this Order shall be filed in the Register of Deeds Office.

Approval of Ambulance Franchise Renewals for Ash-Rand & Piedmont Triad Ambulance

Emergency Services Director Donovan Davis said that the ambulance franchises for Ash-Rand Rescue and EMS, Inc. and Piedmont Triad Ambulance and Rescue, Inc. are set to expire at the end of December 2012. He recommended that these franchises be renewed for another two years, expiring at the end of December 2014. Each agency has successfully completed and submitted the renewal application requirements, along with the required renewal fee (\$500 each). The applications have been reviewed by Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to renew the franchise agreements with Ash-Rand Rescue and EMS, Inc. and Piedmont Triad Ambulance & Rescue, Inc, as requested.

Approval of Amendments to the Voluntary Agriculture District Ordinance

Cooperative Extension Director Carolyn Langley said that the Voluntary Agricultural Board would like to request that the following amendments be made in the County's Voluntary Agriculture District Ordinance in order to redefine qualifying farmland so that the definition is in line with new North Carolina statutory requirements. This includes removal of the requirement that the farmland be in the "present use" deferred tax program, but keeping the size requirements of said program as a guideline for acceptance into Randolph County Voluntary Agricultural District Programs. She also requested changes regarding the advisory board composition.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously, effective immediately, to approve amendments to the Voluntary Agriculture District Ordinance, as proposed, and as follows:

ARTICLE III—VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

B. Appointments and Memberships

The Advisory Board shall consist of fourteen (14) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, (2) each from six (6) geographic areas outlined in Article V below and (2) at large.

C. Requirements

- 2. At least twelve (12) of the fourteen (14) members shall be actively engaged in farming or own qualifying farmland in Randolph County.*
- 4. Each District shall have 2 representatives on the Advisory Board.*

G. Advisory Board Procedure

1. Officers

The Advisory Board shall elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary each year at its first meeting of the calendar year. The Chairperson shall preside over all regular or special meetings of the Advisory Board. In the absence or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside and exercise all powers of the Chairperson. Additional officer may be elected as needed.

5. Records

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings and shall keep records of its examinations of applications and other official actions, all of which shall be filed in the office of the Advisory Board (Cooperative Extension Office) and shall be public record.

H. Powers and Duties

Omit Item #2 regarding Alternates.

ARTICLE IV—CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF FARMLAND

In order for farmland to qualify under this Article, it must be real property that

- A. Is engaged in agriculture as that word is defined in North Carolina General Statute 106-581.1;*

- B. Meets the size requirement applicable to its class of use as set out in North Carolina General Statute 105-277.3(a);*
- C. Is managed in accordance with the Soil Conservation Service defined erosion control practices that are addressed to highly erodable land;*
- D. Is the subject of a conservation agreement, as defined in N.C.G.S. 121-35, between the County Soil and Water Conservation District and the owner of such land that prohibits nonfarm use or development of such land for a period of at least 10 years, except for the creation of not more than three lots that meet applicable County zoning and subdivision regulations. Revocation of a conservation agreement by the Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board or by the landowner of qualifying farmland shall result in the loss of eligibility to participate in a Voluntary Agricultural District.*
- E. Is not located within the corporate boundaries (city limits) of a municipality within Randolph County; and*
- F. Is agreed that for a conservation agreement between Randolph County and the landowner for inclusion in an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District, said agreement CANNOT be revoked for 10 years and is binding upon all successors and assigns unless released by action of the Board of Commissioners.*

ARTICLE VII—APPLICATION, APPROVAL AND APPEAL PROCEDURE

B. Approval Process

- 1. Upon receipt of an application, the Cooperative Extension Director will forward copies or direct the landowner to the following agencies for their prompt evaluation and response:*
 - a. the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office for Randolph County and/or the Randolph County Soil and Water Conservation Service and/or*
 - b. the North Carolina Forest Service or a licensed consulting forester.*

Animal Control Update and Request for Staffing

MiMi Cooper reported on staffing problems at the County Animal Shelter. She said that several attempts have been made to work within the budget to handle these issues, but with no resolution. Ms. Cooper provided the following summary of her request:

- **Work volume is very heavy and increasing.** For three of the past four years, more than 7,000 animals have been taken in annually. In the past four years, more of these 7,000 animals have presented as healthy and adoptable, meaning we hold these animals longer as we try to match them to new owners or rescues. The shelter is full every day and over capacity most days. In addition to an increase in animals brought into the shelter, we have seen a corresponding increase in the number of field complaints. Many of these are abandonments and cruelty complaints, which require prompt response and longer commitments of time.
- **Work is very stressful, demanding and overwhelming.** We simply do not have the space to keep every animal that might be a good, adoptable pet. Every day, staff members make life and death decisions for animals. In addition to caring for the wellbeing of the animals during their stay in the shelter, they also carry out the euthanasia of animals, which is extremely emotional. From observation, we see that employees are physically and mentally tired, and it is showing in the quality of their work. For example, employees that have been with us for many years have been making mistakes that are uncharacteristic for them. In addition, the work is highly physical. Our employees lift animals daily. This leads to sore backs and pulled muscles. They also hose, sweep, shovel, mop, wash and clean cat and dog kennels daily. All these animals also have to be moved during this two-hour cleaning process. Animals that are euthanized have to be handled three times. Not every animal in the shelter or in the field wants to come with us, so officers have to use physical force to get them under control. This means that we have a large number of work related injuries, which lead to absences or work restrictions and thus, more work for the remaining staff.

- **Staff turnover is high.** We lose most employees due to job dissatisfaction or unsatisfactory job performance. While Animal Control in general across the state has a higher than average turnover rate when compared to other County departments, our turnover is far higher than it should be.
 - In 2010, countywide turnover was 13.04%, Randolph County Animal Control was 25%.
 - In 2011, countywide turnover was 13.08%, Randolph County Animal Control was 25%.
 - To date, for 2012, turnover for Randolph County Animal Control is trending at 33%.
 (Turnover is not finalized until after 12/31 of each year.)

When one takes into account that uniforms and vaccinations alone cost us nearly \$1000 for each employee, and the training required to get them fully up to speed is a minimum of four months, ***our total cost of turnover averages \$11,885 per employee.*** Because staff turnover is high, current staff must work extra hours and have extremely high, accumulated compensatory time balances. The total combined compensatory time balance for Animal Control as of 11-15-12 is 387 hours. Because we are chronically short of staff, on call rotations come around faster than we can give employees time off. Employees must use accrued compensatory time before using vacation accrual. Thus, since employees seldom dip into their vacation accruals, vacation balances are extremely high, averaging 215.44 hours per employee as of the 11/15 payroll. This vacation average balance is inclusive of two employees who have been on FMLA and have no accrued vacation. ***This is a huge financial liability for the County when staff leave as we must pay out accumulated compensatory and vacation time.*** While this is a very hard job, both physically and emotionally, and while we will always have turnover due to the nature of the job, our turnover is much higher than average because we are chronically short-staffed and thus, have a much higher level of burnout or discipline (because employees are exhausted, making mistakes and becoming frustrated with the workload) issues.

Proposed Solutions:

- **Add an additional full-time staff position.** Adding an additional position would help tremendously with the work load, thus reducing turnover. An additional Animal Control Officer II costs \$41,585 annually, including benefits.
- **Create a lead officer role.** Currently, we have one supervisor for the entire shelter and field officers. It is too much to keep up with what is going on in the shelter and the field in any sort of consistent way. If the current supervisor is out for any reason, Ms. Cooper said that she manages the program in her absence. This seems like a very inefficient use of resources. Ms. Cooper said she believes that we have a current officer who is capable of taking the lead in the supervisor's absence; Ms. Cooper recommends a 10% increase for the added responsibility. She said she is not asking for a new title in the pay plan, but simply to reward an existing employee for taking on additional duties. The annual amount needed to compensate this employee for the additional responsibilities is \$3,528.00.

Ms. Cooper said that while she realizes she is asking for additional annual funds of \$45,113, she stressed that she has already tried to address the workload issues by hiring temporary, part-time staff on an as needed basis using some lapsed salary dollars. While this has helped some, it is not nearly enough to address the issues outlined above. Additionally, only time will tell, but she believes that adding an additional Officer and creating this lead role will reduce turnover. Based on the numbers outlined above, when costs are netted against the \$45,113 requested, the result in additional funding is very, very minimal.

Ms. Cooper concluded her request with the following statement: These changes are necessary in order to meet the animal control needs of the County. The world of animal welfare has changed tremendously in the years since we first started operating animal control (1996). We are actively promoting our adoptable animals rather than just waiting for the public to come see what we have. We have a core group of volunteers that number over 100 that either come to the shelter to walk dogs, play with cats, groom, train, or solicit donations. We have rules from the Department of Agriculture that we must meet in order to get a license to operate. These raise the standard from a “dog pound” to an “animal shelter.” We choose to take that a step higher and work hard to keep our animal population as healthy as we can. We have a veterinarian consultant as well as several veterinarian volunteers who assist us in improving our skills with all aspects of animal care. We still have our very important enforcement roles called for in the county ordinance as well as in North Carolina law, but we want that same level of professionalism to carry over to the shelter. I say this to make the point that we are striving to become a professional, well run, animal shelter that keeps the focus on animals. To meet this goal, I must be able to attract and *retain* staff.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to:

- *Approve one additional full-time Animal Control Officer II position, effective January 1, 2013;*
- *Approve \$22,556.50 to cover the 2012/2013 costs, effective January 1, 2013;*
- *Approve \$1,764.00 in additional funding to allocate to a current Animal Control Officer II position to take on supervisory responsibilities and duties as a lead officer in the absence of the Animal Control Supervisor effective January 1, 2013;*
- *Approve Budget Amendment #16, as follows:*

2012-2013 Budget Ordinance		
General Fund—Budget Amendment #16		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Appropriated Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$ 24,321</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Public Health</i>	<i>\$24,321</i>	

Election of Voting Delegate for the 2013 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

On motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to elect Harold Holmes as the voting delegate for the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference in January.

Presentation of/Proposal to Accept Offer to Purchase County Property

Associate County Attorney Aimee Scotton said that the County has received a letter from Ned Barnes with the Crosland Barnes Group, LLC, offering to purchase the County-owned 0.98-acre tract better known as the Randleman EMS Base. The offer that was submitted is \$460,000.00 and is contingent only upon favorable environmental testing and the County possessing clear title to transfer. She said that if the Board proposes to accept this offer, we will begin the offer, advertisement, upset bid process set out in N.C.G.S. 160A-269. Mr. Barnes will be required to submit a 5% deposit. Notice of the offer will then be published in the newspaper. After the advertisement runs, other interested parties have 10 days in which to upset this initial bid. They may do so by raising the bid by not less than 10% of the first \$1,000 and 5% of the remainder and by depositing 5% of the increased bid amount with our clerk. This bid process is followed until no further upset bids are received. At that

point, the final offer (high bid) is presented to the Board and then, the Board can accept the offer and proceed with the sale. At any point during this process, the Board can reject any and all offers, but if it does accept an offer, it must be the highest offer. Ms. Scotton said that the Board's action at this point would be to either reject the offer of \$460,000 from Crosland Barnes Group, LLC, or propose to accept the offer.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to propose to accept the offer of \$460,000 from Crosland Barnes Group, LLC for the County-owned Randleman Ambulance Base property.

Authorization to Allow PTRC to Apply for Housing Rehabilitation Funds on the County's Behalf

County Building Inspector Brian Heilig said that Randolph County is eligible to receive funds under the Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR) Program. This grant is for a three-year cycle. The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) would assume all responsibilities as applicant, recipient, and administrator of the grant. Randolph County Government will not incur any cost or liability for the grant while the residents of the County will receive the benefits of housing rehabilitation. This can work in conjunction with our CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant. Mr. Heilig presented a memo announcing the availability of funds from the Housing Finance Agency and a letter from Michael Blair, PTRC's Housing Director, explaining the role of the PTRC. Mr. Heilig requested the Board's approval to allow PTRC to request Single Family Rehabilitation Program funding of behalf of Randolph County.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to apply for Single Family Rehabilitation Program funding of behalf of Randolph County.

Approval of Resolution to Delay Reappraisal for One Year

Randolph County Tax Supervisor Debra Hill requested that the 2013 Revaluation be postponed until January 2014 due to concerns about the quality of the data as a result of Legacy data migration and software conversion issues. She said that the County implemented CAMA (real estate appraisal) in Feb 2011, but the revaluation module was not available until April 2012. The new CAMA software calculates values differently. This forced delays as the appraisal staff had to learn the new valuing scheme while developing a new schedule of values from the ground up. During this time, the Tax appraisal staff also discovered data problems that were created during the CAMA Legacy data conversion. This has caused us to go back and manually fix certain elements of the property information in the new system. Farragut, our CAMA software vendor, has been working closely with us on cleaning up the data conversion issues. They have also been working as quickly as humanly possible to correct software issues as they have been identified. Ms. Hill stressed that it is imperative that the revaluation information is reliable. The citizens deserve to have confidence in the accuracy of their property values and more time is needed to verify property information and to complete a thorough analysis of new property values. Unfortunately, staff and time is limited to deal with these issues. Ms. Hill said that they cannot adequately prepare the revaluation in the available time and is asking that the revaluation be postponed until January 2014.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, which postpones the effective date of the next General Reappraisal until January 1, 2014:

**A RESOLUTION DELAYING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF A REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY IN
RANDOLPH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 105-286 mandates a reappraisal of property at least every eight (8) years; and

WHEREAS, Randolph County's next mandated eight-(8-) year reappraisal is required as of January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 105-286(a)(3) authorizes a Board of County Commissioners to advance the period so that a reappraisal occurs more often than every eight (8) years; and

WHEREAS, Randolph County, on February 2, 2004, advanced its tax reappraisal cycle to occur every six years, so that the last reappraisal occurred January 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Randolph County had planned to have an advanced reappraisal effective for January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners feel that a reappraisal for January 1, 2013 should be delayed due to concerns regarding the quality of the data as a result of legacy data migration and software conversion issues that could result in property values not equal to their true market values as required by North Carolina General Statute 105-283.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY THAT:

1. The scheduled reappraisal for an effective date of January 1, 2013 is hereby revoked and rescinded.
2. Pursuant to the authority granted in North Carolina General Statute 105-286(a)(3), the next scheduled reappraisal for Randolph County is set for an effective date of January 1, 2014, followed by a next scheduled reappraisal for Randolph County with an effective date of January 1, 2019, and Randolph County will return to a six- (6-) year reappraisal cycle thereafter.
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Property Tax Division of the North Carolina Department of Revenue and the municipalities of Randolph County.

Adopted this 3rd day of December, 2012.

Closed Session

At 8:30 p.m., on motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area, pursuant to [N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(4)].

Regular Meeting Resumed

At 8:50 p.m., the Board returned to regular session.

Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., on motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Stan Haywood

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board